

# American Opinion Summary

## Department of State

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For a report on the Administration's statement of the "case" for its Cuban policy, *U.S. News and World News*, Western Edition, dis-agreement concerning the "threat" posed by Russian weapons and troops on the island.

Some declare that the *Wall Street Journal* "in its editorial page" through the Defense Department "pre-empted" public briefing and the President's comments on January 7. They constitute "a persuasive case for the Administration's policy" and "a good case, too, for our present disengagement," the *Wall Street Journal* asserts. With the Washington Post and Washington Star, the Sun sees Administration critics now "required to toe up to" the questions "they have been courtng. What would they do? Would they invade Cuba?"

Even some *Wall Street Journal* critics, who Adlai Stevenson must be respected," *U.S. News and World News*, and absence of any threatening signs could up. "The *Wall Street Journal* temporary "clamorous" evaluation as "factual," says the Philadelphia Inquirer, for "there is nothing to show has wrong in the extravagant and irresponsible claims made by some politically motivated critics" somewhat similarly, Scripps Howard's *Wash. Post*.

"However, the Administration's defense of its policy in Cuba cannot erase" certain "flaring facts," opponents maintain. Cuba is an armed Soviet base, and so long as one remains so, "our security and that of our neighbors in Latin America will be seriously endangered," the Philadelphia Inquirer says. Scripps Howard stresses "the lack of adequate information which remains disturbing"; furthermore, it holds that the "intensity of the nature of the weapons in Cuba "has been vastly over emphasized" by the Administration (also, Sen. Kennedy, 1/10/61).

The *Wall Street Journal* asserts that "the most unassuring thing about the whole business" is the "undeniable fact" that sizeable Soviet forces and modern weapons do remain in Cuba.

"Lack of any appearance of U.S. weakness" is protested by some. "There are other measures available to us, short of invasion," such as "a tight naval blockade" and "pressure on Khrushchev" to recall his troops, *U.S. News and World News*, *Phil. Inquirer*; Sen. Symington (D-Mo.).

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